

Paterson



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ANDRE SAYEGH

Dear Readers,

As we find ourselves in the start of Fall, I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Paterson State of the City Newsletter, highlighting the remarkable initiatives that have taken place in the past year. This newsletter is a testament to our collective efforts and the progress we have achieved together as a community. From revitalizing our parks and recreational areas to launching the Paterson Reintegration Services Initiative, we have been working tirelessly to enhance the quality of life for all residents. Additionally, our commitment to public safety and community engagement remains unwavering. I am grateful for your continued support and dedication to making Paterson a better place to live, work, and thrive. As we look ahead to close out 2023, I eagerly anticipate sharing more exciting news and updates with you. Together, we will continue to build a bright and prosperous future for our beloved city.

Andre Sayegh

Mayor, City of Paterson

PATERSON DESIGNATED A HEALTHY TOWN BY MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

The City of Paterson announced on April 14, 2023, that it had once again been designated a Healthy Town by the Mayors Wellness Campaign, recognizing the City's commitment to enhancing health and wellness within the community. Julie DeSimone, Director of Community Health for the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, officially presented the prestigious designation to Paterson for the third consecutive year. This recognition highlights the City's outstanding efforts in promoting exercise, healthy eating, and mental health education and awareness.

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM

On May 19, 2023, under the radiant sun, amidst a backdrop of cheering crowds, esteemed dignitaries, and enthusiastic community members, Mayor Andre Sayegh, the Paterson City Council, Paterson Public Schools, and project partners cut the ribbon on the historic Hinchliffe Stadium. The event marked a new chapter in the story of the Negro League Stadium. For a look at the ceremony's highlights and a glimpse into the rich history and cultural significance of Hinchliffe Stadium, we invite you to turn to page 3.

BOWL WITH THE BLUE

This past Spring, the Paterson Police Department proudly hosted the inaugural "Bowl with the Blue" event, marking the beginning of a meaningful series aimed at strengthening connections between local law enforcement and the young residents of our vibrant community. The event brought together 400 students from School #13, School #16, School #28, and School #6, all eager to engage in a fun-filled day of bowling with officers. As part of the Community Policing Division's ongoing commitment to fostering positive relationships, "Bowl with the Blue" provided a platform for open dialogue, shared experiences, and mutual understanding. By inviting 100 students from each participating school, the Police Department took a step toward creating an environment of trust and camaraderie between the youth and the dedicated officers who serve and protect them. This event is just one of many community engagement activities organized throughout the year, exemplifying the Division's unwavering dedication to building stronger, more harmonious bonds with the Paterson community.

CITY OF SOLUTIONS



PATERSON FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

On FEC Day, Mayor Andre Sayegh and NJCDC CEO Bob Guarasci announced the relaunch of the Paterson Financial Empowerment Center- the only Center in New Jersey offering free one-on-one financial counseling. Residents can now schedule counseling sessions online or visit NJCDC and partnering co-locations throughout the city for in-person appointments. Take the first step towards financial well-being and empower yourself today! For further information about the Paterson FEC please contact the Paterson FEC directly at the number (973) 413-1655 or you can contact the Department of Health & Human Services at the number (973) 321-1242.



REENTRY SERVICES AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

This past Winter, the City of Paterson established a Reentry Services Coordinator position within the Mayor's Office. For the first time, the City has dedicated resources to provide essential support and services to previously incarcerated individuals, helping them rebuild their lives and stay on a positive path. Led by the Coordinator, Valaida Hall, such assistance encompasses various areas, including employment, housing, social services, and education, ensuring a comprehensive approach to successful reentry. Thanks to funding from the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) New Jersey Empowered, Accountable, and Determined (NJLEAD) grant, Paterson can provide this crucial support to residents. For more information on the Paterson Adult Reentry Services Program, contact the Office of the Mayor at (973) 321-1600.



REALFIX SOFT LAUNCH

RealFix, a critical initiative to address Paterson's opioid crisis through medication-assisted treatment led by Chief Innovation Officer Ed Boze, Program Monitor Dr. James Monks, and Peer Recovery Specialist Ingrid Lawnick has successfully completed its "soft launch" phase. During this period, approximately 137 individuals suffering from opioid addiction have received Suboxone prescriptions, offering them a pathway to recovery since February. The city is finalizing partnerships with patient transportation companies and medication delivery service providers to ensure comprehensive support for program participants.

RealFix will become fully operational in the Fall. The program is funded by a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. For more information, contact the Office of the Mayor at (973) 321-1600.

QUALITY OF LIFE



UEZ SAFE COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

The City of Paterson launched the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Safe Commercial Corridors initiative on May 1, 2023. Mayor Andre Sayegh, Director Michael Powell, Director Jerry Speziale, Major Frederick Fife, and South Paterson business owners unveiled the almost \$1.7 million investment to enhance public safety to ensure the well-being of businesses and residents. The initiative began in the Spring and continues until March 2024. Twelve police officers and one supervisor have been deployed to patrol key commercial areas, including Downtown, South Paterson, People's Park, Park Avenue, Market Street, 10th Ave, Vreeland Ave, and East 23rd Street.



NEXT GENERATION 911

Mayor Andre Sayegh and Fire Chief Brian McDermott proudly announced on June 22, 2023, that Paterson had been awarded a transformative \$1.4 million grant from the State of New Jersey to implement the cutting-edge Next Generation 9-1-1 Network (NG9-1-1). This significant grant is set to modernize Paterson's emergency response services by transitioning from the aging analog network infrastructure to a state-of-the-art digital 9-1-1 system, enhancing the City's ability to swiftly and accurately address emergencies. This landmark advancement will empower our call takers and dispatchers to harness the power of fiber networks and Voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology, facilitating real-time data transmission and access. Notably, the NG9-1-1 system will introduce Text-to-911 functionality, ensuring that individuals facing communication challenges during crises can also reach out for assistance. With advanced mapping software seamlessly integrated, dispatchers will possess the tools to precisely locate callers and direct our dedicated first responders to those in need. In 2022 alone, Paterson handled approximately 130,000 9-1-1 calls, underscoring the critical importance of this monumental step toward modernization.



NEW POLICE OFFICERS

The Paterson Police Department remains dedicated to bolstering its ranks with fresh talent year after year. This commitment stands as a cornerstone of the community's safety and well-being. On June 12, Mayor Sayegh proudly swore in 15 new graduates from the Paterson Police Academy, each equipped with the training and determination to serve the City with honor. The City eagerly anticipates the upcoming graduation of 29 recruits who entered the Police Academy in April and are set to proudly join the force in September. Additionally, the City enthusiastically welcomed six recruits to the Academy in July, fortifying its resolve to provide exceptional policing services to Paterson's residents. With each new addition, the City edges closer to reaching the Table of Organization of 439 officers for the police department.

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM



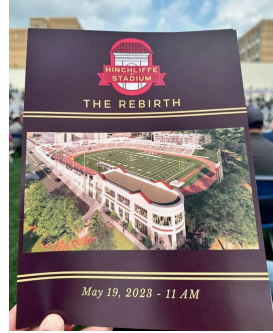
Photo: NJ Dept. of Community Affairs



Photo: Tom Franklin



Photo: Tom Franklin



A HISTORIC REBIRTH:

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM REOPENS AFTER TRANSFORMATIVE REDEVELOPMENT

Friday, May 19, 2023, marked an exhilarating day for the City of Paterson as the long-awaited reopening of Hinchliffe Stadium, a vital piece of Paterson's cultural heritage and one of the last remaining Negro League ballparks, became a reality after two years of transformative redevelopment. Mayor Andre Sayegh, the Paterson City Council, Paterson Public Schools, and developers Baye Adofo-Wilson welcomed distinguished guests, including Whoopi Goldberg, Senator Booker, and a heartwarming gathering of 2,000 community members for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The culmination of the \$103 million Hinchliffe Stadium neighborhood restoration project, led by BAW Development and RPM Development, was celebrated as Paterson's most ambitious mixed-use development endeavor.

Having stood since 1932, the stadium was once a thriving hub of athletic and cultural events, later succumbing to neglect in the 1990s. With a renewed purpose as the home of the New Jersey Jackals, an independent minor league baseball club, the 7,800-seat Depression-era ballpark has been revitalized to reignite neighborhood pride and provide a gathering place for sports enthusiasts and community events. This monumental undertaking also encompasses a range of additions, including an affordable senior housing building, the Charles J. Muth Museum of Hinchliffe Stadium, a food court, a pre-school, and a parking garage, all of which contribute to a vibrant and rejuvenated urban space for Paterson's residents and visitors alike.



Photo: NJ Jackals



Photo: Paterson Public Schools



Photo: Tom Franklin

NJ JACKALS CALL HINCHLIFFE HOME

On September 14, 2022, Mayor Andre Sayegh and New Jersey Jackals owner Al Dorso unveiled thrilling news for Paterson as the New Jersey Jackals officially established their new home within our vibrant city. A proud member of the Frontier League, a Professional Baseball League affiliated with Major League Baseball (MLB), the Jackals have relocated from Montclair's Yogi Berra Stadium to the historic Hinchliffe Stadium. In collaboration with the City of Paterson, the Jackals have fostered partnerships with local businesses, hired residents as employees, and introduced various community entertainment options such as kids camps, traveling teams, training and exhibitions, holiday events, and more.

HINCHLIFFE HOSTS HS GRADUATIONS

On June 27, 2023, for the first time in nearly three decades, the graduating classes of several Paterson high schools, including John F. Kennedy High School, International High School, STARS T.I.E.S., Eastside High School, Paterson Steam High School, Rosa Parks High School, and P-Tech, proudly walked across the iconic field to receive their hard-earned diplomas. The rich history of Hinchliffe Stadium served as the backdrop to this extraordinary event, marking a remarkable milestone in the lives of our city's young scholars and rekindling the spirit of community and achievement.

HUNDREDS PRAY AT HINCHLIFFE

A historic moment unfolded on June 28, as Mayor Andre Sayegh joined then Council President Shahin Khalique, the Islamic Foundation of New Jersey, and members of Paterson's vibrant Muslim community to celebrate the joyous occasion of Eid Al-Adha. This remarkable event marked the inaugural Eid Jamat held at the iconic Hinchliffe Stadium, where hundreds of community members assembled to join in prayer, unity, and reflection. Against the backdrop of this cherished historic landmark, our diverse community came together to commemorate this auspicious occasion, underscoring the values of togetherness, respect, and cultural diversity that define the fabric of Paterson.

PARKS & FIELDS



PENNINGTON PARK

On April 20, 2023, Mayor Andre Sayegh, accompanied by DPW Director William Rodriguez and dedicated coaches from the Paterson Old Timers Youth Baseball League, ushered in a new era of play as they cut the ribbon on the freshly renovated baseball field at Pennington Park. A symbol of resilience and community spirit, the revitalized field emerged from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in 2021, which left the original field unusable for two years. With support from FEMA funding, the field has now transformed into a state-of-the-art turf, poised to host the dreams and talents of young athletes. Serving as the beloved home of the Paterson Old Timers Youth Baseball League, which has been a cornerstone of our city since its establishment in 1949, the field is the backdrop for countless innings of friendship, passion, and growth for youth ages 5 to 16.



COMMONS FIELD

Mayor Andre Sayegh, alongside Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., and DPW Director William Rodriguez, united in a moment of pride and progress on May 3, 2023, as they officially cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Commons Field, one of Paterson's cherished designated softball fields. The remarkable transformation, made possible through Paterson's strategic investment of approximately \$1.7 million in American Rescue Plan funds, breathes new life into this treasured community space. The project's enhancements, including new turf, upgraded fencing, a modern concession stand with essential amenities, enclosed dugouts, state-of-the-art LED lights, a relocated scoreboard, and a soaring flagpole, beautifully redefine the heart of recreation. Presently, eight recreation and twelve American Athletic Union (AAU) teams play at Commons Field, exemplifying the field's role as a hub of athletic camaraderie and healthy competition.



LESTER TITUS FIELD

Mayor Andre Sayegh, Marilyn Clark, the Friends of Paterson Parks (FPP), and an exuberant community came together on June 13 to commemorate a transformative moment as they cut the ribbon on Lester Titus Field, nestled in Paterson's First Ward. This occasion marks the culmination of a remarkable \$806k collaborative effort between FPP and the City of Paterson, breathing life into a vibrant play space for Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology students and the surrounding community. Once dormant for three years following a tragic incident, Lester Titus Field now symbolizes resilience and community determination. Through the collective dedication of FPP, the City of Paterson, and Ms. Clark's generous \$600k donation, the field has blossomed into a safe and accessible recreation space.



AMISTAD PARK

Mayor Andre Sayegh, accompanied by the Bugg Foundation and members of the Paterson community, gathered on February 24, 2023, to celebrate a triumphant moment as they cut the ribbon on the revitalized Amistad Park, situated proudly on Vreeland Ave. This reinvigoration effort has bestowed new life upon the park, featuring fresh signage, welcoming benches, improved sidewalks, and efficient trash receptacles. This is in addition to the new playground equipment that is on its way and soon to be installed. A beacon of transformation, the park's renewal marks a significant departure from its previous status as a crime-ridden spot. Beyond its aesthetic enhancements, Amistad Park holds profound cultural and historical importance to the African-American community. Named in tribute to the Amistad Case, a pivotal milestone in the fight against slavery, the park is a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who triumphed for freedom.



JOHNNY BRIGGS FIELD

U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Mayor Andre Sayegh announced a significant federal award of \$1 million on February 13, 2023, for the restoration of Paterson's cherished Johnny Briggs Field.

A revered figure in both the Major League Baseball and local sports arena, Johnny Briggs' legacy has left an indelible mark as he played for the Philadelphia Phillies, Milwaukee Brewers, and Minnesota Twins from 1964 to 1975.



VERA AMES PARK

In a noteworthy stride towards enhancing our city's cherished spaces, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) and Mayor Andre Sayegh proudly announced a transformative \$360,000 federal award on February 24, 2023, designated for the restoration of Paterson's beloved Vera Ames Community Park.

Once known as Wrigley Park, the park has stood as a vital oasis, offering a haven for families, summer camps, and a vibrant canvas for community gatherings. Renamed to honor the legacy of Vera Ames, a dedicated 4th Ward Councilwoman and revered African-American community leader, this park encapsulates Paterson's rich history and inclusive spirit.

POWER OF PATERSON



PATERSON RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS

On Friday, November 25, 2022, Mayor Andre Sayegh launched Paterson's first Annual Restaurant Week to promote small businesses throughout the city. For a set price of \$17.92 (referencing Paterson's founding year, 1792) close to 20 local eateries offered a mix of pre-fixe menus. The diversity among all 158,000 residents— including Bangladeshis, Palestinians, Puerto Ricans, Peruvians, Dominicans, Jamaicans, Italians, and African Americans created a menu that highlighted the multicultural flavors found throughout the city. The best meals from all fifty-two ethnic populations were available for purchase throughout the seventeen local restaurants that participated in the week-long event. In 2023 Restaurant Week will take place from November 27th - December 3rd. Follow the Facebook page for updates at Facebook.com/PatersonNJRestaurantWeek.



THE SUSTAINABLE CITY

Mayor Andre Sayegh is committed to a green and sustainable future for the residents of this city. There have been city-wide efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve public health across all divisions of local government. In 2021, these efforts were recognized by Sustainable Jersey and Paterson became one of thirty-seven bronze-certified towns in the state. Since then, there has been a coordinated effort to leverage federal funding toward increasing our green initiatives. The City has secured funding to create a green schoolyard at School 21, upgrade our city fleet to electric vehicles, and perform energy audits on municipal buildings that are projected to save the city approximately \$500,000 per year. These initiatives are only the beginning of the plan to make "the Silk City" the Sustainable City".



EASTSIDE PARK MAKEOVER

Paterson's oldest park received a two million dollar makeover with additional improvements to the pedestrian pathways, and a cricket clubhouse, already underway. Eastside Park is a central gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors. The comprehensive improvements elevate Paterson residents' overall quality of life by providing a well-maintained and attractive outdoor space for relaxation and recreation. The resurfacing of the roads was completed in August of 2023 and still to come in 2024, are brand new tennis courts and the much-anticipated restoration of the historic park steps.



OPIOID RESPONSE TEAM

For the last two years, the Paterson Coalition for Opioid Assessment and Response (COAR) has been tackling data collection and programmatic development in response to the opioid epidemic. All of COAR's activity has been operationalized by Paterson's inaugural Opioid Response Team (ORT). ORT is composed of specially-trained law enforcement, medical first responders, and outreach/peer support professionals who have partnered with St. Joseph's Health to place two ORT Social Workers in the Emergency Department. The two Social Workers will be available during the times when data shows an influx of individuals seeking recovery need support. The initiative's goal is to assure consistent case management to those seeking opioid recovery options and related support, whether they enter City Hall, the Department of Health and Human Services, or St. Joseph's Emergency Department. For more information please visit PatersonCoar.com



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

In 2022, Mayor Andre Sayegh announced that Paterson had been awarded \$662,000 from the Safe Routes to School program of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). The Program, whose goal is to increase pedestrian safety among motorists and schoolchildren, will support projects at 15 Paterson schools and 93 intersections. The scope of work includes new signage, new enhanced thermoplastic crosswalks, and new countdown walking traffic signals. Each school will receive two solar-powered driver feedback signs and 2 School Zone Ahead signs

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

NEW STREETS REPAVED SINCE MARCH 2022

<u>STREET</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>Month/Year Paved</u>
Elberon Ave.	Chatham Ave.	Totowa Ave.	06/2023
Rose St.	Market St.	Parkway	05/2023
Parkway	Rose St.	Rosa Parks Blvd.	05/2023
Seeley St.	Market St.	Parkway	05/2023
Southard St.	Market St.	Parkway	05/2023
Redwood Ave.	Doremus St.	Totowa Ave.	05/2023
Van Winkle St.	Marshall St.	Main St.	05/2023
E. 12th St.	4th Ave.	Dead End	06/2023
Spring St.	Grand St.	Slater St.	06/2023
Chamberlin Ave.	Redwood Ave.	Preakness Ave.	06/2023
Cedar St.	Straight St.	State St.	11/2022
Bloomfield Ave.	Main St.	Getty Ave.	11/2022
N. Main St.	Clinton St.	E. Haledon Ave.	11/2022
Ellison Pl.	Madison Ave.	E. 22nd St.	11/2022
E. 31st St.	Dead End	Park Ave.	11/2022
E. 21st St.	Broadway	Ellison Pl.	11/2022
Essex St.	Straight St.	Summer St.	11/2022

COMING IN 2024

REPAVING OF RIVER STREET: The City of Paterson is currently working on the construction of a new storm sewer system. This project will separate the storm drainage system from the City's sanitary sewer which will eliminate the combined sewer overflow system that results in flooding along River Street. The work is expected to be completed by the Summer/Fall of 2024. Once the construction is complete, the paving of River Street will begin. The City will be using \$7.5 million of the American Rescue Plan funds to help resurface River Street to make it accessible and safe for the community.

RENOVATION OF WESTSIDE PARK: We are thrilled to announce that a full renovation of Westside Park is in the works with \$9-15 million dollars in funding from the American Rescue Plan, bonds, and grant funds. The renovation project will include a wide variety of brand new facilities, such as a new field at Totowa Oval, a new basketball court, new tennis courts, new playgrounds, a new Johnny Briggs field, and new pathways and recreation areas. To ensure the success of the project, we have partnered with New City Parks. The groundbreaking is expected in the Spring of 2024.

GREAT FALLS RIVERWALK: In 2022, Mayor Sayegh, joined by Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr. and Superintendent Darren Boch, announced Paterson's plans to expand the Great Falls National Historical Park with a river walk. The 2.5-acre expansion will allow visitors to stroll along the Passaic River among the ruins of a dye factory, silk mill, and gun mill where the Colt .45 revolver was manufactured. The project is funded by grants from the National Parks Service, Green Acres Open Space, bonds, and transitional aid appropriations. Construction is currently underway and the complete transformation is expected to finish in November 2024.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Office of the Mayor (973) 321-1600
- City Council's Office (973) 321-1250
- City Clerk's Office (973) 321-1310
- Business Administration Office (973) 321-1370
- Finance Department (973) 321-1350
- Legal Department (973) 321-1366
- Municipal Court (973) 321-1515
- Department of Public Safety (973) 321-1270
- Police Department (973) 321-1111
- Fire Department (973) 321-1407
- Department of Public Works (973) 321-1488
- Division of Recreation (973) 321-1313
- Division of Recycling (973) 321-1393
- Department of Health & Human Services (973) 321-1242
- Division of Health (973) 321-1277
- Department of Community Development (973) 321-1212
- Department of Economic Development (973) 321-1220
- Division of Community Improvements (973) 321-1232
- Division of Historic Preservation (973) 321-1220
- Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone (973) 321-1220
- Paterson Free Public Library (973) 321-1223
- Paterson Museum (973) 321-1260
- Paterson Parking Authority (973) 977-3999
- Housing Authority of Paterson (973) 345-5080

UPCOMING EVENTS:

State of the City
September 28, 2023

**Hispanic Heritage Month
Awards Luncheon**
October 3, 2023

Square Mill Ribbon Cutting
October 11, 2023

School 25 Field Ribbon Cutting
October 12, 2023

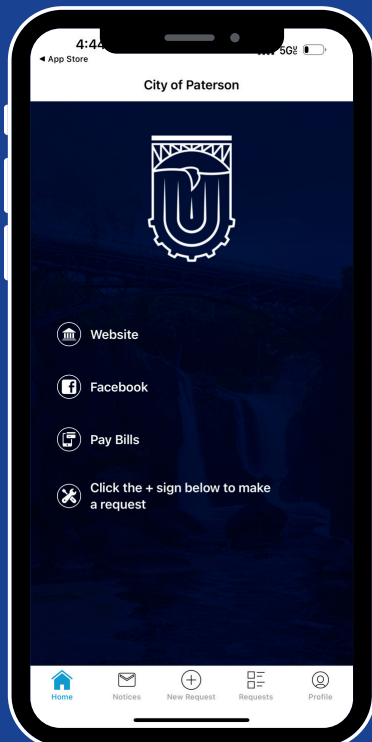
Paterson Green Fair
October 21, 2023

Halloween at City Hall
October 31, 2023

Diwali Festival of Lights
November 13, 2023

Tree Lighting Ceremony
November 25, 2023

Paterson Restaurant Week
November 27 - December 3



Follow the City of Paterson on our various communication channels to stay connected and informed about the latest news, events, and updates in our community.

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 feedback@PatersonNJ.gov

 (973) 321-1600

 www.PatersonNJ.gov

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Cable Access Channels: Channel 77 (Optimum) & Channel 32 (Verizon)